

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

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AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

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# THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No 17.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
AND FIFTY-FIVE.

AN ACT to authorize the owners of Meeting Houses to  
sell, or remove or repair the same.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
tives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECTION 1. The owners of pews, or the proprietors  
2 of, or in any meeting house in this State, are hereby  
3 empowered to repair, remodel, sell and convey, their  
4 house and the lot of land on which it stands or the  
5 house without the land, or remove or rebuild the  
6 same, provided that a majority of the owners or pro-  
7 prietors of such house and land present at any legal  
8 meeting called for that purpose, shall authorize the  
9 same. The warrant calling such meeting shall be

10 posted upon said meeting house in the usual place of  
11 posting notices, and in one other public place in the  
12 precinct where said meeting house is situated, at least  
13 fourteen days before the day of meeting, signed by at  
14 least five of the said owners or proprietors, and shall  
15 set forth distinctly the object of said meeting; or  
16 notice may be given by publishing said warrant in a  
17 newspaper published in the county where said house  
18 is situated at least fourteen days before the day of  
19 meeting.

SECT. 2. Before any alteration or sale of any meet-  
2 ing house shall be made under the foregoing section,  
3 an appraisal of the relative value of the pews in said  
4 house shall be made by three discreet persons under  
5 oath, to be elected by ballot at any legal meeting of  
6 said owners or proprietors; and in case a sale of said  
7 house and land shall be made, and it may be made at  
8 private or public sale, as shall be determined at the  
9 meeting aforesaid, the proceeds of said sale shall be  
10 applied, first, to pay the expenses of said sale, second,  
11 to the payment of all debts and just claims against  
12 said property; and the balance which may remain  
13 shall be paid to the pew owners or proprietors of said

14 property, in proportion to their respective interests as  
15 determined by the appraisal aforesaid.

And if the majority of such owners or proprietors  
17 shall determine to alter or rebuild their said meeting  
18 house, the said appraisers shall, after the work of  
19 altering or rebuilding shall have been completed,  
20 assign to the pew holders in the former house pews  
21 to conform as near as practicable to those previously  
22 held by them, and the new pews may be sold under  
23 the direction of any legal meeting, towards defraying  
24 the expenses of the repairs and alterations, or be other-  
25 wise disposed of, as said proprietors or pew owners  
26 may determine at a legal meeting.

And the proprietors or owners, at their meeting  
28 aforesaid, shall appoint some suitable agent or agents  
29 to make the sale and conveyance as aforesaid, or to  
30 make the repairs and alterations<sup>s</sup> authorized by a  
31 legal meeting, and they may also appoint a treasurer  
32 or trustees to receive and distribute the proceeds of  
33 said sale in manner before provided.

SECT. 3. If any owners or proprietors as aforesaid  
2 are not able to call a legal meeting, by reason of lapse  
3 of time or failure of organization, or any other cause,

4 an application may be made by any five or more of  
5 such owners or proprietors, to a justice of the peace,  
6 to issue his warrant appointing a time and place for the  
7 owners or proprietors of any meeting house, to meet  
8 and organize themselves for the purpose of making such  
9 sale, alteration, repairs or removal, which warrant shall  
10 be served upon the owners and proprietors personally,  
11 by a written or printed copy of said application and  
12 warrant, or by posting the same on said meeting house,  
13 and at one other conspicuous place in the precinct  
14 where said house is situated at least fourteen days be-  
15 fore the time appointed for such meeting. And said  
16 application shall set forth specifically the objects  
17 of such meeting. And the meeting thus called shall  
18 be empowered to adopt such measures in regard to the  
19 objects so set forth, and appoint such officers to carry  
20 them into effect, as a majority of said owners or pro-  
21 prietors may at such meeting determine.

SECT. 4. If the owners or proprietors of any meet-  
2 ing house, which the major part owners shall by vote  
3 at a legal meeting determine to repair, remodel, or  
4 rebuild, shall dissent from the proceedings of such  
5 meeting, and shall decline to take any interest in the

6 house which may be so repaired, remodeled or rebuilt,  
7 they shall be entitled to demand and receive of those  
8 who may elect to make such alterations, the appraised  
9 value of their interest in said house and land, their  
10 proportion of the debts of said owners or proprietors  
11 being first deducted, to be recovered by an action for  
12 money had and received, against the owners who may  
13 so elect to make such alterations and repairs.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect from and after  
2 its approval by the Governor.





STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 21, 1855.

ORDERED, That this Bill be laid on the table, and 350 copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.

LOUIS O. COWAN, *Secretary*.